Increase in rice quota for Kerala

48. SHRI THENNALA G. BALAKRISHNA PILLAI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any request from the State Government of Kerala regarding increase of rice quota during the Onam festival season;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what action has been taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) A request has been received from the State Government of Kerala for allocation of an additional quantity of 71000 MTs of rice for the Onam festival.

(c) It has been decided to make one time special allocation of 21000 tons of rice at APL rates to the State of Kerala for the Onam festival during the month of August, 2007.

Building up foodgrain stocks in foreign countries

49. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are planning to build up stocks of foodgrains in foreign countries in order to bolster food security; and

(b) if so, the details of the plan, including its genesis, the means and nature of procurement of stocks, funding thereof, names of countries where such stocks are proposed to be held, and the mechanism of Government which would be engaged for execution of the plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) No Sir, the Government has not taken any decision to build stocks of foodgrains in foreign countries.

Decline in procurement of rice and wheat by FCI

50. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the procurement of rice and wheat by FCI has declined drastically this year;

(b) if so, the details of the procurement of rice and wheat by FCI;

(c) the reason for the decline in procurement;

(d) whether multinational companies are also procuring rice and wheat in the country;

(e) whether there is any restriction on quantity of procurement by such companies; and